

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Message from the Mayor

As I travel across the city, I hear from citizens just about every day about public safety and how the rate of violent crimes, such as homicide, is rising. I heard it a few weeks ago during a Ward 4 Town Hall Meeting, in which area residents voiced their thoughts about recent crimes.

It was a terrific thing to see citizens come to the meeting and begin a dialogue about what we can all do to reduce crime. We discussed new ways to work together with police in Takoma Park, Maryland. Working closely with the Takoma Park police, we are revamping our "Border Patrol Initiative" to try and resolve problems on both sides of the state line. Working together, we can keep the lines of communication open.

At the forum, we also discussed basic solutions like encouraging more taxis to station themselves at area Metro stations.

Ward 4 Councilmember Adrian Fenty and I have discussed various options for crime reduction in that area, including plans for a task force to study crime, witness protection for citizens, and better surveillance of the area with cameras.

We must get our arms around the recent rash of homicides in this city, namely ones that involve our young people. What we're seeing is senseless, horrendous violence and it's painful to watch.

One thing we need to ensure is that our police go through a clearance process to solve violent crimes. We should consider increasing rewards and work to increase our "precision patrols" around the city. These deployments have been successful in Ward 4 where we've expanded the hours of precision patrols to increase coverage.

The murder a few weeks ago of a young woman visiting our city from Washington State is the latest violent crime in Ward 4. It's horrifying to see a young woman, an innocent victim, killed for no reason in any part of our city for any reason.

This isn't the only murder in the city, however. In the first half of 2001, we had a 30-year low for homicides in our city, but we had an unfortunate spike in violence in July 2002, with 33 homicides. These homicides stemmed from a variety of motives—drugs, arguments, retaliation, robbery, gangs, and domestic violence.

We must tackle crime in all areas. We need to work harder to make progress, and I am confident in the efforts of Police Chief Charles Ramsey and his officers.

But successful crime-fighting also takes help from the community, and I understand that residents in Ward 4 are helping our police in a big way—passing out flyers and getting information to our officers. I want to commend them for helping out.

In addition to police solutions, we must continue to work with our young people to get the root of violence. We have to take a balanced approach to making our city the best it possibly can be—and that involves me, our city government, our police, and it involves you.



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissions](#)

Employee Spotlight

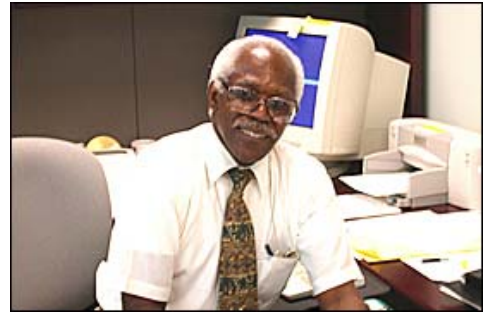
Roosevelt Bland is an employee of thirty years with the Department of Employment Services (DOES) who has distinguished himself many times over his rich career. Most notable among his numerous distinctions is his contribution beyond his normal job requirements to the One-Stop Career Center System. Roosevelt has literally been the first DOES staff person to work at each of the six One-Stop Centers throughout the city.

In every instance, two to three weeks prior to the official opening of each One-Stop Center, Roosevelt inventories and synopsizes the hundreds of resource books, workbooks, magazines, newspapers, videotapes, and CDs on hand. He later applies security tabs to each item in standardized formatted positions. Roosevelt then arranges all the materials on the shelves, in racks, and in cabinets according to subject matter, to enhance universal accessibility and user friendliness for One-Stop customers.

After setting up and properly organizing each resource center, Roosevelt spends several weeks onsite orienting the resource center coordinator to the new materials and equipment. At each location, he is instrumental in acclimating the customers, as well as fellow coworkers, to the new environment.

In addition, Roosevelt assists the customers to access America's Job Bank and the DOES Virtual One-Stop System using the Internet. He is especially helpful to those customers who have difficulty using computers, the Microsoft Word program, and office equipment, and writing resumes. His efficient and quiet demeanor helps to lessen the stress level of customers who use the center's resources in search of job opportunities.

Roosevelt Bland is the epitome of a team player who gives unselfishly to everyone in the workplace. Thank you, Roosevelt, for doing your job so well!



Roosevelt Bland

Caribou Coffee Opens at Logan Circle

I'm pleased to say that another coffee shop is opening in our great city. It's good news—namely for avid coffee drinkers like me—that Caribou Coffee, a Minneapolis-based company, just opened a store in Logan Circle to serve a developing area.

Even better, nine of the 13 employees currently hired for the Logan Circle Caribou Coffee live in the neighborhood and can walk to work. That's the commute of many people's dreams. Imagine walking to and from work. You can take care of exercise while commuting at the same time. This fits into my concept of a thriving neighborhood—where you can live, work, and play.

As the nation's second largest non-franchised coffee company, Caribou Coffee operates 205 stores in the Midwest and Southeast. The company expects to open more than 20 stores in the Washington, DC, area by the end of next year.

The Logan Circle store marks Caribou's second venture in the District; its first was the Caribou Coffee at 17th & L Streets, NW, which opened in January 2002.

Known for its strict adherence to freshness, Caribou says it purchases only the finest beans—all are the Arabica variety and not the less expensive and less flavorful Robusta variety commonly used by other many coffee companies.

With freshness its highest priority, Caribou adheres to a "roast-to-order" strategy, which means that coffees are never stockpiled. Instead, each store's supply is freshly roasted within 21 days of serving.

Now, the "other" popular coffee store in the area, Starbucks, is getting some competition from Caribou. So I will let our citizens and visitors decide which is better. Meanwhile, we welcome the new Caribou to Ward 2, which is better off today than it was four years ago thanks to the arrival of businesses like Fresh Fields and Caribou.



LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

New Funding for Affordable Housing

On August 16, I was pleased to announce \$25 million in funding for affordable housing—yet another step in the right direction toward making our city more livable and part of a larger citywide plan to increase affordable housing.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will make the \$25 million available in local Housing Production Trust Fund monies, federal HOME and Community Development Block Grant funds, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits for developers committed to creating affordable housing.

Rising property values and rents are forcing some low-income residents to flee their neighborhoods, and this is unacceptable in the District of Columbia. This money will allow us to preserve our city's affordable housing and create new opportunities for more affordable housing.

The new funding continues this administration's record of investing in affordable housing. Since 1999, District agencies have helped finance more than 10,000 units of affordable housing that are worth more than \$1 billion in total investment. That's a big difference from a couple years ago, when in 1996 not one single building permit was issued by the city.

We chose to make the announcement at Clifton Terrace—a fitting backdrop since it's a revitalized affordable housing project in one of the city's most rapidly developing neighborhoods. At Clifton Terrace, we've preserved 152 apartments while ensuring that rents are as low as \$655 a month.

Based on our past experiences, this \$25 million will leverage an additional \$100 million and produce over 1,000 new homes. This funding process is significant in part because it's the first competitive solicitation for housing funds our city has had in years.

It will enable the District to make awards to developers who can best meet the city's affordable housing needs.

This funding is also a challenge to our city's nonprofit developers, for-profit developers, housing advocates, and the faith community. I know they care passionately about the need for more affordable housing in the District, and I hope they continue their efforts.

End of Summer Activities

Summer's almost over, but the memories many of our youths have from the past three months will live forever. The District provided summer programming to approximately 50,000 children and youths this summer in probably one of the most creatively designed approaches to summer programming that we've used in this city.

Community-based organizations, through the Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation, served nearly 18,000 children and youths and hired 350 college interns representing over 30 colleges and universities throughout the United States.

The Department of Parks and Recreation served over 5,000 children and youths in urban camps, sports camps, one sleepover camp, and an environmental camp. We ran 53 full-day camps and three half-day camps, giving an opportunity for everyone to enjoy summer.

The DC Public Schools served over 10,000 students in language arts and mathematics enrichment programs, and the Department of Employment Services employed over 5,800 youth through its Passport to Work program.

After years of turmoil, dysfunction, and upheaval, the Department of Parks and Recreation showed once again that it could help improve the lives of our citizens and breathe new life into our everyday activities. This summer, we had numerous activities and programs offered at more than 50 summer camps, sports leagues, and all 20 outdoor swimming pools.

Thanks to the hard work of many people in our Department of Parks and Recreation, our children had places to play and learn, and our seniors had places to relax during these steamy summer months. Everyone in the city from age three to 103 had something to do this summer.

We operated 37 aquatic sites, which included 20 large outdoor pools, 13 children's' pools, and four indoor pools. The Summer Leagues were also up and running. We had Tee-Ball, Little League Baseball, Adult and Inter-generational softball, basketball, and soccer programs.

Maybe the next Michael Jordan or Chamiqua Holdsclaw found his or her way onto the court here this summer. We've worked hard to create a balanced offering of activities and programs in the District to ensure that our young people are prepared for the world.



Henson Ridge Moves Forward

Earlier In August, I was pleased to announce the progress we've made at the Henson Ridge housing construction site, a \$91 million development of mixed-income housing in Ward 8 that I think is a great example of things we're doing to improve our city.

The Henson Ridge development will create 600 rental and for-sale housing units on a 57-acre site in Ward 8. The development is a terrific example of how the city's housing agencies can pool resources and bring affordable housing to low-income residents.

Henson Ridge is a HOPE VI project that calls for the total demolition of the Frederick Douglass Stanton Gardens public housing complex and the construction of a mixed-income housing development with townhouses, apartments, and bungalows in its place.

In recent years, many people left Ward 8. They were tired of housing that was outdated, inadequate, and in disrepair. They were exhausted from fighting a lonesome and losing battle with crime; and they were tired of watching the District's investments in schools, roads, parks, and housing decline year after year.

But across our city, it's a new day. What's happening at Henson Ridge is part of a larger picture of redevelopment east of the Anacostia—about \$650 million in housing investment in that area since 1999.

In addition to housing, we've also built a Senior Wellness Center in Ward 8 to take care of our parents and grandparents, and we're investing over \$3 million for an indoor gym and recreation center at Bald Eagle for our children and families.

I've made a commitment that long-forgotten neighborhoods would become vibrant with grocery stores, retail, housing, and safe streets. So Henson Ridge is just one of the treasures you can find east of the river, and with everyone's help and the city's commitment, we'll make a difference one block, one neighborhood, one ward at time.

District Activities



Mayor Williams assists DC Councilmember Vincent Orange and others at Henson Ridge construction celebration.



Mayor Williams listens intently as announcement is made regarding DC 2012 Olympic bid.



Community News

- [DC Olympic Bid Earns Praise but Not UOSC Finalist Selection](#)
- [Mayor Makes Appointment to Veterans Affairs Advisory Board](#)
- [Mayor Announces \\$300 Million Bond Deal for Newseum](#)

[Click here](#) to view releases.

Upcoming Events

09/04	Informational Meeting on Plans for Play Area 6:30 pm Shepherd Elementary School, 7800 14th Street, NW
09/05	ElderFest 2002 10 am – 3 pm Freedom Plaza (Pennsylvania Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets, NW)
09/11	Candlelight Vigil 7:15 pm Freedom Plaza (Pennsylvania Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets, NW)
09/14	Multicultural Information 11 am – 3 pm 2200 Champlain Street, NW
09/14	Giant Food BIKE DC 2002 Car-free bike tour of DC 8 am Ride begins and ends at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

[Click here](#) to view the Mayor's daily schedule.

